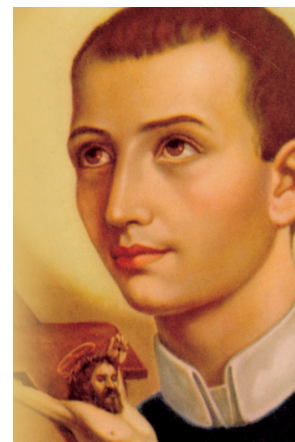


# THE LEAGUE OF Saint Gerard



PRAYERS • DEVOTIONS • MEMBERSHIP • GIFTS • RESOURCES • SPRING 2010

## With Hearts Renewed

FR. DONALD B. WILLARD, C.S.S.R.

LOVE IS THE  
POWER OF GOD  
AT WORK IN  
THE WORLD.



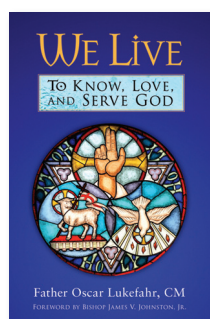
AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, our lives return to normal. The hustle and bustle of shopping, celebrations, and visits with family and friends give way to the ordinariness of daily living. School resumes, we return to work, and our lives return to their regular schedule.

One might say our regular lives are boring and mundane. We often fly through life on autopilot. We wake up, go through our regular routine to get ready for the day, do the things we have to do, make dinner, watch television, and go to sleep, only to repeat the same ritual the following day. We're so familiar with the repetitious events in our lives that we fail to look for the action of God in those ordinary moments.

### Ordinary moments

Saint Gerard saw all the moments of his life as being full of potential miracles, and he's most known for the wonderful miracles that have occurred through his intercession. Thousands of people from around the world attribute fantastic events in their lives to the prayers of Saint Gerard.

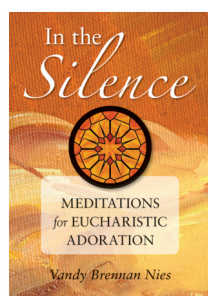
It's interesting to note that the word *miracle* means "by the power of God." Anything, no matter how extraordinary or



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ordinary, done by the power of God can be called a miracle.

Perhaps, as the year begins, we should take time to examine our lives and find the power of God not in the extraordinary, but in the ordinary moments of our lives. The very fact that we are *alive* is a miracle. We exist only because God has willed us into existence. Our very lives, though often marked by commonplace events, constitute one of the greatest miracles of all time. And, if our lives are miracles, then everything good that occurs in our lives must also be miraculous.

If we have a job, that is a miracle; if we have family and friends, that is a miracle; if we have clean drinking water, that is a miracle. Nothing good enters our lives unless God permits it to exist, and it comes into existence through God's great love for us. Every blessing and grace that enters our lives is the power of God shaping and forming us into people who should give God praise and thanksgiving for even the most simple and basic gifts we've received.

Saint Gerard understood that the ordinary events of our lives can become extraordinary events when they're done with great love. Love is the power of God at work in the world. Love seeks to give to the beloved the very best that can be given, because love always wants the beloved to experience the fullest life possible. Saint Gerard gave a young lady his handkerchief to ease her suffering, exchanged stories and jokes with the townspeople, and passed countless hours working and praying with people. On the surface, these moments were merely a

## Prayer

**Almighty God, you never cease to bless us with your presence, even in the most ordinary events of our lives. Help us see your action in our world, as Saint Gerard did, so that we can offer every moment to you through acts of great love. Turn our hearts and minds toward you so the ordinariness of our lives become extraordinary events of your love, grace, and mercy. And we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.**



young brother taking time in the regular daily events of life to show great love.

### *Not so ordinary after all*

Yet these people experienced healing, wholeness, and holiness through these seemingly normal events. That's because Saint Gerard didn't hand the handkerchief only to the girl—he was also handing the handkerchief to Christ. He didn't have conversations only with the townsfolk—he was also having conversations with Christ.

In fact, Saint Gerard and all the saints really served and continue to serve Christ through their brothers and sisters. This is why the Gospel of Matthew says, "Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me'" (25:37–40).

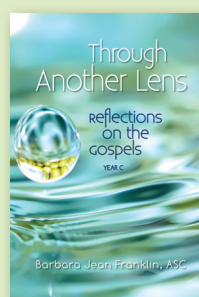
Yes, Saint Gerard stands as a reminder to us that God wants to be part of every mo-

ment of our lives, turning the ordinary into the extraordinary as we show great love for God by loving our neighbor.

### *Following Gerard's example*

How can we make the ordinary events of our lives into extraordinary experiences? The key is to enter into the moment with great love and seek the will of God in the present. God is already there, but we must be attentive to what God is already doing.

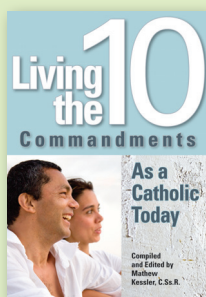
God is continuously conversing with us, blessing us, and giving us all we need to experience the love, joy, and peace of God's kingdom. Jesus came to be with us to give us the great means of entering into the kingdom to receive the fullness of life. Therefore, if we really believe Jesus is with us every moment of our lives, and we really believe Christ is present in our brothers and sisters, then we can turn even boring and mundane moments into miraculous events. By consciously and actively seeking the presence of God in our ordinary lives, we can move through the year with hearts renewed, excited about helping the kingdom of God to enter our world through ordinary activities with extraordinary love.



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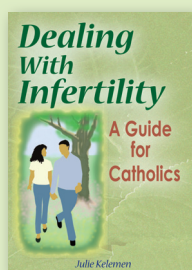
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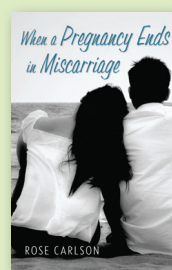
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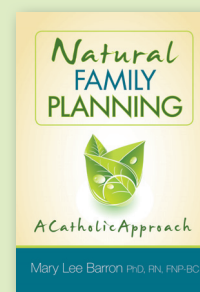
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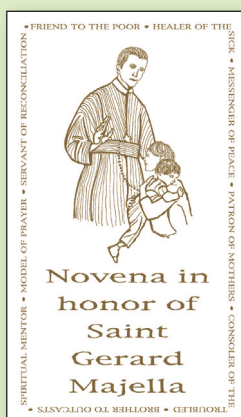
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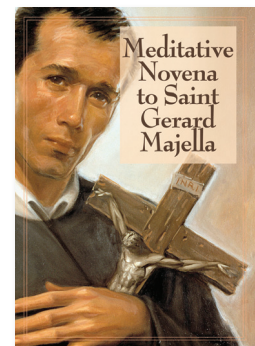
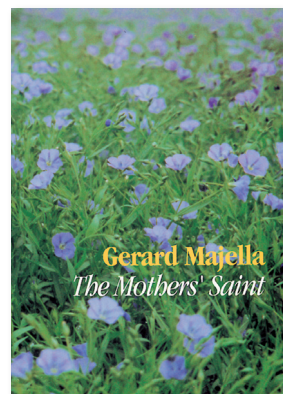
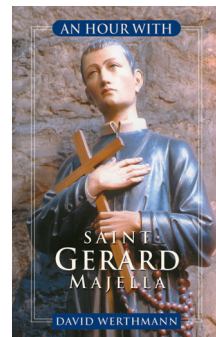
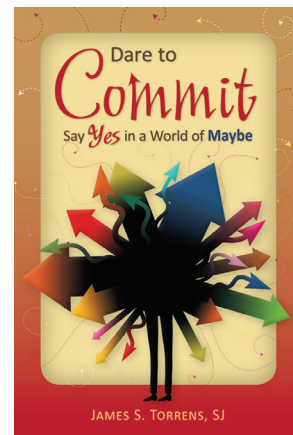
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